THE HANFORD SITE

# Canister Storage Building

*Fact Sheet – January 2022*


*High-level radioactive material is delivered to the Canister Storage Building.*

*The U.S. Department of Energy and contractor Central Plateau Cleanup Company are safely and compliantly managing interim storage of waste at the Canister Storage Building at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state.*

## Background

The Canister Storage Building (CSB) plays an important role as an interim storage facility in Hanford's cleanup mission.

The CSB is a 42,000-square-foot (3,402-square-meter) facility in Hanford's 200 East Area. The facility stores about 400 multicanister overpacks containing about 2,300 tons of irradiated fuel that came from several Hanford facilities. The irradiated fuel was cleaned, packaged, dried, and relocated to the CSB to provide safe interim storage in a consolidated location.

### Mission

The CSB is composed of three belowgrade concrete vaults, each capable of holding 220 carbon steel tubes. The tubes, each 40 feet long and 28 inches in diameter, have been placed vertically in Vault 1. Multicanister overpacks are safely stored in the tubes until a final disposal decision is made. Vaults 2 and 3 are available for additional storage needs.

Adjacent to the CSB is the interim storage area, which also contains irradiated fuel packaged in various containers. This irradiated fuel will be repackaged and sent to a national repository.

*A crane inside the 42,000-square-foot Canister Storage Building is used to lift multicanister overpacks from belowgrade concrete vaults.*

*Workers handle an empty container, called a multicanister overpack, used to store irradiated reactor fuel.*

### Fast Facts

- Below the floor of the CSB there are numerous vertical storage tubes in three concrete vaults.
- Each carbon steel storage tube is 40 feet long and 28 inches in diameter.
- Annual operating costs are approximately $5 million for safe storage of nuclear materials.
- Approximately 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel is stored in the tubes in the CSB.